

**THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF  
SAINT PETER AND  
THE HOLY AND INDIVISIBLE TRINITY  
GLOUCESTER**



**Evensong**

**Please do not take this booklet away. Thank you.**

## CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

***All things come from you and of your own do we give you.***

The generosity of the congregation and its many visitors helps the Cathedral to meet the ever increasing costs of sustaining its worship, music, fabric and educational activities. Therefore in the true spirit of Christian Stewardship we should seek to maximise the benefit that can be obtained from the money you donate. We are committed to keeping the cathedral free to enter.

If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid allows the Chapter to claim an additional £2.50 on each £10 donated. Please use the Gift aid envelopes which are readily available throughout the Cathedral. If you worship regularly at the Cathedral, please consider joining one of our three Planned Giving Schemes: Weekly Envelopes, Standing Order, or Direct Debit. **The Direct Debit Scheme is the most efficient method of Planned Giving, as it greatly reduces the administrative overheads.**

*If you would like to discuss this in confidence, please speak with one of the members of the Stewardship Committee (John Merrick or Claire Saunders); who will be able to advise you about Planned Giving in complete confidence.*

God's love for us knows no bounds. He gives us all that we have, and we cherish these gifts through our stewardship. In giving sacrificially, we respond to Christ's sacrifice on the cross; it is a sign of our faithfulness. Thank you for your gift.

## **Welcome to Evensong**

Until 1540 Gloucester Cathedral was the Abbey of St Peter, a Benedictine monastery where the ‘opus Dei’, literally ‘the work of God’, was the primary focus of the life of the Abbey. Seven times each day the monks of the community gathered in the Quire to say and to sing the different offices, or services, a tradition which stretched back to the early centuries of the Church. The service of Evensong has its roots in this monastic tradition of worship and is sung or said daily in churches and cathedrals throughout the country.

Henry VIII founded the Diocese of Gloucester in 1541 and St Peter’s Abbey became the Cathedral Church of St Peter and the Holy and Indivisible Trinity. The new foundation made provision for a choir of men and boys to sing the daily offices, the number of which Archbishop Thomas Cranmer reduced to two, Matins and Evensong, in his 1549 Book of Common Prayer.

Evensong is Cranmer’s compilation of the two monastic offices of Vespers and Compline, celebrating the incarnation of Jesus Christ, God coming to us in the person of Jesus. In the Anglican tradition the psalms are chanted and the canticles (the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis) are sung to settings by some of the greatest composers from the sixteenth century to the present.

From being a service prayed only by those in monastic life, Evensong became a service for all God’s people who come to worship.

### **Introduction to Evensong**

In the Cathedral we pray at the beginning and end of every day because our lives, our history and our future belong to God. We give thanks for good things, ask for help with difficult things and pray for those in pain and need. We also listen, day-after-day, to words from scripture that tell the great story of what God has done and will do. God is with us in all things and in all places. In this service of Evensong we give God our undivided attention.

“Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

*Ephesians 5:18-20*

*The Choir rehearses before the service begins and so could you please wait until this has concluded to allow uninterrupted preparation before entering the Quire. Thank you.*

*Before the service a short organ voluntary helps us to prepare for worship. All stand as the Choir enters.*

**On Fridays**, the day when we recall Christ's death on the cross for the world's salvation, the service begins with the Confession:

### **CONFESSION**

*A sentence of scripture is said*

Minister Dearly beloved,  
the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge  
and confess our manifold sins and wickedness;  
and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before  
the face of almighty God our heavenly Father;  
but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and  
obedient heart;  
to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same  
by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you,  
as many as are here present,  
to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice,  
unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

*All kneel*

**All** **Almighty and most merciful Father,**  
**we have erred, and strayed from thy ways**  
**like lost sheep.**  
**We have followed too much the devices and desires**  
**of our own hearts.**  
**We have offended against thy holy laws.**  
**We have left undone those things**  
**which we ought to have done;**  
**and we have done those things**  
**which we ought not to have done;**  
**and there is no health in us.**  
**But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,**  
**miserable offenders.**

**Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.  
Restore thou them that are penitent;  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesu our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and  
sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.**

Minister Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who desireth not the death of a sinner,  
but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live;  
and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers  
to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent,  
the absolution and remission of their sins:  
he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent  
and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel.  
Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance,  
and his Holy Spirit,  
that those things may please him which we do at this present;  
and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy;  
so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**All Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed by thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

*All stand*

**On Saturdays and Sundays** the Choir sings an Introit.

**Each day the service continues from here with THE RESPONSES**

Cantor    O Lord, open thou our lips.  
Choir      *And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.*  
              O God, make speed to save us.  
              O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
*As it was in the beginning, is now,*  
*and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*  
Praise ye the Lord.  
*The Lord's name be praised.*

*The minister welcomes the congregation and all sit as the Choir sings the Psalm(s).*

*At the end of the Psalm (remain seated)*  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

*All remain seated for*

**THE FIRST READING  
FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT**

*God's relationship with the created world and its people is told through story,  
history, poetry and prophecy.*

*All stand*

*The Choir sings the Canticle*

**MAGNIFICAT, THE SONG OF MARY**

*Mary celebrates the news that she is to be the mother of Christ  
and proclaims the renewal of God's justice and peace.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded:  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth:  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy:  
hath holpen his servant Israel;  
As he promised to our forefathers:  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

*All sit for*

**THE SECOND READING  
FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT**

*The story of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ  
and the early Church's witness and response.*

*All stand*

*The Choir sings the Canticle*

**NUNC DIMITTIS, THE SONG OF SIMEON**  
*Simeon celebrates the arrival of the infant Christ  
and sees that salvation is offered to all.*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared:  
before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

*All turn east toward the High Altar and say together*

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead,  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God  
the Father almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.**



**I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Cantor    The Lord be with you.  
Choir      *And with thy spirit.*  
              Let us pray.

*All kneel for the sung responses and prayers*

Cantor    Lord have mercy upon us.  
Choir      *Christ have mercy upon us.*  
              Lord have mercy upon us.

*Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil. Amen.*

*○ Lord, show thy mercy upon us.  
And grant us thy salvation.  
○ Lord, save the Queen.  
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.  
Endue thy ministers with righteousness.  
And make thy chosen people joyful.  
○ Lord, save thy people.  
And bless thine inheritance.  
Give peace in our time, ○ Lord.  
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, ○ God.  
○ God, make clean our hearts within us.  
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

## THE COLLECT(S) OF THE DAY

### THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

### THE COLLECT FOR HELP IN DANGER

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*All sit and the Choir sings*

## THE ANTHEM

*On Sundays a short Homily is given.*

*All sit or kneel*

**THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**  
ending with Sung Responses or The Grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

*Stand*

*A hymn is sung before the Blessing, except on Fridays.  
On Sundays a collection is received during the hymn.*

*All remain standing for*

**THE BLESSING**

*The Choir and Clergy process out as the organ is played. On Saturdays, Sundays,  
and some other days a longer organ voluntary concludes the service. Many people  
like to stay to listen to this.*

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**GLOUCESTER  
CATHEDRAL**

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